

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 09485 311655Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 /090 W

-----311657Z 100392 /43

P R 311639Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1271

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS PARIS 09485

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL IYASSU MENGESHA

1. DURING A RECENT VISIT TO PARIS, ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION (EDU) LEADER GEN. IYASSU MENGESHA GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO PHILIPPOE DECRAENE WHICH APPEARS IN LE MONDE OF MARCH 31. IYASSU SAYS THE EDU IS NOT "ROYALIST" AND THAT IT IS THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE WHO SHOULD DETERMINE THE FORM OF THEIR FUTURE INSTITUTIONS. THE EDU IS NOT PREPARED TO DEVELOP A COMMON PLATFORM WITH OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES, BUT WANTS TO ASSEMBLE ALL ETHIOPIANS FIGHTING THE JUNTA. AFTER THE LATTER HAS BEEN OVERTHROWN, EACH GROUP CAN PRESENT ITS OWN PROGRAM TO THE PEOPLE.

2. IYASSU DENIES THE EXISTENCE OF A BEGEMDER LIBERATION FRONT AND CLAIMS THAT THOSE WHO TOOK HUMERA AND METEMA ARE EDU MEMBERS. THE SITUATION IN TIGRE IS THE SAME, EXCEPT FOR A SMALL GROUP WHICH FORMED THE EPLF. HE DENIES THAT EDU ACTION IS COORDINATED WITH THE ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 09485 311655Z

3. ASKED WHETHER SUDAN WAS A SANCTUARY FOR EDU FORCES, IYASSU SAYS THAT THEY ARE FIGHTING WITHIN ETHIOPIA WHERE MORE AND MORE ETHIOPIAN SOLDIERS JOIN THEM. THE EDU WILL NOT FORM A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE BUT ITS HEADQUARTERS IS ALREADY LOCATED ON ETHIOPIAN SOIL.

4. FINALLY, IYASSU DECLARES HE WILL NOT TALK WITH THE
JUNTA. ITS "INSTABILITY, INCOHERENCE AND INCOMPETENCE"
HAVE CREATED AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN THE HORN. GREAT
POWER CONCERN IS UNDERSTANDABLE SINCE INTERNATIONALLY,
THE JUNTA CREATES THE IMAGE OF "A CHILD PLAYING WITH
FIRE."
GAMMON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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